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U.S. Sponsors Workshop on Prosecuting Sexual and Gender-based Violence.

From 19 September to 21 September, United States Department of Justice (USDJ), in partnership with the International Justice Mission; Courtenay Morris (State/INL); and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) held a three-day workshop on prosecuting sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) cases. The participants included police, police prosecutors, and prosecutors that handle SGBV cases in Kenya and the provinces. The curriculum focused on trial preparation, exhibit management, witness preparation and related issues. The program featured a site visit to Kenyatta National Hospital's SGBV unit. The police and prosecutors toured the unit that treats sexual offenses victims, met with the managing physicians, and spoke with "first responders" who examine the victims, including the on-site police staff. A SGBV victim spoke about her interaction with the justice system and outlined how she could have been better assisted by the police. The participants also toured Kenya's Milimani Court. The participants met with the Principal High Court justice of the criminal court, magistrates, and other court representatives to discuss the investigation and prosecution of SGBV cases. The discussion touched on case challenges, dealing with child witnesses, and a defendant's right to bail. The participants toured the courtrooms equipped to handle child witnesses. This was the third of three interrelated trainings focused on SGBV. The first program was held in May 2012 and focused on witness preparation in SGBV cases, with an emphasis on handling the child witness. In August 2012, Judge Ann Williams, United States Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit, and a team of judges and lawyers trained approximately 110 judges, prosecutors, and lawyers. The advocacy based training focused on presenting SGBV offenses in court.